Sangren continues earning design praise

A spate of new awards puts Sangren Hall, home to the College of Education and Human Development, firmly in the lead as the University's most honored architectural project.

The most recent accolade was formally presented in Detroit Feb. 5, when Sangren was recognized by the Construction Association of Michigan as one of the organization's 2013 Special Issue featured projects.

Peter J. Strazdas, associate vice president for facilities management, traveled to Detroit to accept the award, along with representatives of architectural firm SHW Group and Miller-Davis, the construction management firm. As part of the award, Sangren was featured in a lengthy article in the organization's October magazine.

The article, "Sangren Hall: A 21st Century Schoolhouse," lauded the "playful rigor" of the building's design and its successful integration of technology, sustainability and collaborative work spaces.

The award comes just weeks after Sangren won a 2013 American School and University Architecture Portfolio Award in the post-secondary category. That citation lauded Sangren for its "excellent daylighting," overall layout and variety of student gathering spaces.

Several other schools from around the nation were in the competition for that top port-

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WMU literary press recognized with award, grant

The University's literary press has started the new year with three recent accolades.

New Issues Poetry and Prose had one of its anthologies, "Poetry in Michigan/Michigan in Poetry," named a 2014 Michigan Notable Book. It also received a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and a chancellorship for author Mattawa.

The Michigan Notable Book Award is given to the top 20 Michigan-related books each year, as decided by a committee of booksellers, librarians and reviewers through the Library of Michigan.

"Poetry in Michigan/Michigan in Poetry" features the work of 90 Michigan poets and was coedited by William Olsen, WMU professor of English, and Jack Rail, professor emeritus of English at Hope College. It and New Issues will be formally recognized at an awards event in April in Lansing, Mich.

With this new grant, WMU now houses one of only four university-affiliated presses to earn an NEA grant this year for literature and one of only two publishing poetry.

The money will support the printing and promotion of New Issues' Green Rose Series, including multi-media approaches to promoting the series. The press will collaborate with WMU's Adriane Little, art, to produce poetry videos featuring the work of these poets.

New Issues' third accolade is having its author Mattawa elected chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, an honorary post that has been held by some of the most distinguished poets in the United States.

News-oriented quiz show episode to be taped on campus

National Public Radio's "Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!" is coming to Miller Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20.

The popular show airs on WMUK-102.1 FM at 10 a.m. Saturdays. Now in its 15th season, the Peabody Award-winning "Wait Wait..." uses current events to generate comedy in a quiz show format.

Host Peter Sagal, along with official judge and scorekeeper Carl Kasell, leads a rotating panel of comedians, humorists, journalists, listener contestants and celebrity guests through a comic review of the week's news.

Contestants vie for the most coveted prize in all of public radio: a custom-recorded greeting by Kasell for their voicemail.

Tickets are on sale now and range from $33 to $123. They can be purchased online at millerauditorium.com, by calling (269) 387-2300 or (800) 387-2312, or in person at the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office.

For more information about the show, visit waitwait.npr.org.
Around campus and beyond

Editor’s note: Visit wmich.edu/news/events for more information about events.

Discussions part of MLK celebration
Activities are continuing for this year’s Martin Luther King Jr. celebration.

Racial progress, professional and social success, and unity among African-American college students will be examined during a program titled “Is Our Past Brighter Than Our Future?” at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11, in 208-09 Bernhard Center.

WMU alumni also will present a program on “Promoting Diversity in Science-related Careers” at noon Wednesday, Feb. 26, in 208-10 Bernhard Center.

Lectures focus on suicide prevention
Jack Krott, founder and director of Suicide Prevention Consultants in Grand Rapids, Mich., will speak at three events Thursday, Feb. 13.

“Suicide Prevention Assessment Training for Health Care Providers/Students in Training on Campus and in the Community” is set for 2 to 5 p.m. in the Dean’s Conference Room of Schneider Hall.

Next up will be “Suicide, Substance Abuse and Bullying” and “Protective Factors and Implications of Culture on Suicide” from 5:30 to 8 p.m. in the Lee Honors College Building lounge.

Entrepreneur to make presentation
Robert Kennedy, chief scientific officer of Vestaron, will speak Friday, Feb. 14, in 2150 Schneider Hall as part of the Entrepreneurship Forum. The free event begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m. The talk will follow at 8 a.m. Registration is required at wmich.edu/business/e-rsvp or (269) 387-6059.

Talks look at globalization, bioethics
Patricia H. Werhane, the Wicklander Professor of Ethics, was named to the 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship.

High-profile author to give readings
Rachel Kushner, who has twice been a finalist for the National Book Award, will read from her works at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14, in the Little Theatre as part of the Gwen Frostic Reading Series. In addition to her literary honors, Kushner received a 2013 Guggenheim Fellowship.

Events planned for Engineers Week
Bob Carlson, an aerospace engineer with a long track record at one of the nation’s foremost laboratories, is keynote speaker for the Engineers Week Dinner Tuesday, Feb. 18, in the Fetzer Center. He will speak on “Adventures in Light Jet Aircraft Development” during the after-dinner program that starts at 7:30 p.m.

This year marks the 55th Engineers Week celebration, which is designed to increase public awareness and appreciation of engineers and their work. For information about the dinner and other Engineers Week events, visit wmich.edu/engineer/eweek.

Profs honored by international group
Yvette D. Hyter, speech pathology and audiology, was named a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association at the association’s 2013 convention.

One of the highest honors the association bestows, the designation acknowledges Hyter as an exemplary professional and recognizes her outstanding contributions to the discipline of communication sciences and disorders. She was specifically cited for her work in the areas of clinical service and education, teaching, and leadership in the field.

Hyter is a co-founder of the WMU University of the Commonwealth’s Southwest Michigan Children’s Trauma Assessment Center, a trans-disciplinary collaboration that comprehensively assesses the impact to children following exposure to traumatic events or suspected fetal alcohol exposure.

Emeritus edits new book on Aral Sea

The Aral Sea is a once-large lake lying among the deserts of Central Asia. Since 1960 it has suffered unprecedented drying and ecological and economic damage due to large-scale withdrawals of water for irrigation from the two rivers feeding it.

Micklin wrote eight chapters in the 18-chapter book, which provides a detailed look at the Aral Sea’s past, present and future. Other expert contributors come from Russia, Germany, France, Kazakhstan, the United States and Uzbekistan. Micklin was invited by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences to participate in a workshop last year devoted to water management issues in the United States, Europe and Iran.

Staffer leading state organization
Shashanta S. James, student financial aid and scholarships, is the new president of the Michigan Student Financial Aid Association Board of Directors. James, a WMU employee since 1986, took office Jan. 29 and had been serving the past year as president-elect.

MSFAA brings together post-secondary schools and other public and private organizations involved with providing financial aid for students. While serving as the board’s president, James also will fulfill a one-year appointment as the Michigan representative on the Midwest Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

As a volunteer with MSFAA, she has served in posts including conference chair and chair of the Awareness and Multicultural Outreach Committee, which received the President’s Award for its involvement throughout Michigan.
Trustees approve retirements of nine employees

The retirements of four faculty members and five staff members were approved by the WMU Board of Trustees at its Jan. 22 meeting.

Trustees also signed off on one faculty resignation as well as one sabbatical leave, and updated the department affiliations of numerous faculty members to make them consistent with revised names they approved for several academic departments.

For more information or appreciation week materials, visit wmich.edu/career/seaw.

Week set aside to recognize student workers’ assistance

WMU will recognize its student employees during the 28th annual Student Employee Appreciation Week, Monday through Friday, Feb. 17-21.

The week is a time to honor student employees who help to make WMU a great place to work and learn. It also provides an opportunity to showcase the University’s outstanding student employees and the staff members who supervise them.

Career and Student Employment Services is accepting award nominations online through Monday, Feb. 10, for this year’s Supervisor of the Year award and Belleville Student Employee of the Year award. All 2014 award winners and nominees will be announced as well as celebrated during a reception at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 20, in the Berhard Center.

Sports medicine clinics slated

The campus community is invited to ask staff members from the WMU Sports Medicine Clinic about injury treatment options and rehabilitation during drop-in sessions this spring.

No appointment is needed for the sessions, which will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in three locations. The event dates and locations are:

- Wednesday, Feb. 19, Engineering and Applied Sciences Building lobby
- March 19, Student Recreation Center lobby; and
- March 26, Health and Human Services Building student commons.

Visitors are invited to ask about their training aches and pains, or to learn how a sports medicine approach to treatment can help someone with an injury return to activity as soon as possible.

Board authorizes acquisition of property adjacent to campus

Acting at their Jan. 22 meeting, WMU trustees authorized University officials to move forward with the acquisition and subsequent demolition of 10 homes on pieces of property immediately adjacent to the north edge of WMU’s East Campus.

Two of the parcels are located on Oakland Drive, and the remaining eight are on Bel- lend Drive, which runs east off of Oakland Drive.

The 10 parcels have been listed for sale since late December. A tentative agreement on a sale price of $370,000 has been negotiated between the University and the owner of the properties.

Jan. J. Van Der Kley, vice president for business and finance, told trustees the move falls squarely into WMU’s strategic plan and the goal of expanding the University’s footprint around its oldest facilities.

Historic East Hall is located just up the hill from the parcels and is about to be renovated for use as an alumni center. That center is scheduled to open in 2015.

“We expect the acquisition and demolition of these houses to substantially improve the appearance of an area that serves as the formal gateway to our East and Oakland Drive campuses,” Van Der Kley said.

Office stages open houses

Development and alumni relations invites all WMU faculty and staff members to attend an open house in Walwood Hall.

Open houses will be held from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 11; Wednesday, Feb. 19; and Thursday, Feb. 27. Register at mywmu.com/openhouse.

Attendees will learn about the daily impact development and alumni relations makes and how the office’s staff members can help in any area of the University.

In addition, there will be snacks, refreshments and door prizes.

WMU to hold huge annual career fair this month

WMU’s 36th annual Career Fair is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Bernhard Center Ballroom.

The event will feature 175 employers and is open to the public, although geared toward WMU students and alumni.

Job seekers from all fields are encouraged to attend.

Participating organizations represent such diverse areas as engineering, technology, education, health care, human services, manufacturing, financial services, aviation, transportation, construction, environmental sciences, retail, consumer products, and the government and nonprofit sectors.

“Many recruiters will be offering interview slots, so we encourage all students to visit the Career Fair even though they might not be looking for full-time employment yet. Attending the Career Fair will also be a great opportunity for students and faculty to do some networking,” says Buffy Nespolzani, event co-chair and WMU assistant director for employer relations and development.

“We’ll be hosting a preparation room for WMU students to help them feel more comfortable and assist them in their interactions with the participating employers. Students will have an opportunity to practice a personal commercial with a career coach as well as to get advice on things like professional dress and effective communication with employers.”

In addition, Nespolzani urges WMU students to have their resumes reviewed prior to attending the Career Fair, open from noon to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday on the first floor of Ellsworth Hall.

For more information, including a list of participating employers, visit wmich.edu/career/careerfair.

Nominations accepted for staff awards

Nominations for the spring round of semiannual Make a Difference awards are due by Friday, Feb. 28.

Make a Difference is a campuswide peer-to-peer program that recognizes staff members for their accomplishments and daily investment of energy and creativity. It features semiannual and annual awards presented to employees who provide exceptional service to the University.

Every fall and spring, semiannual awards are presented to a maximum of 15 people. Those selected for the accolade receive a before-tax $300 prize and certificate, are recognized at a special reception, and may be nominated for one of four annual Make a Difference awards that carry a before-tax $1,200 prize.

Employees may receive the semiannual award more than once, but are limited to one such award per academic year. The annual award, which may only be received once, is given to each year’s four most outstanding semiannual award winners.

Nominations for Make a Difference awards are accepted for individuals from the following five employee groups: Administrative Professional Association; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; Michigan State Employees Association; Police Officers Association; and Professional Support Staff Organization.

Nomination instructions and forms are available year round at wmich.edu/makeadiffer- ence/nominations.

Nominations accepted for state employees

For more information or appreciation week materials, visit wmich.edu/career/seaw.

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Center created to enhance supply chain education

A new center has been established as part of the highly touted integrated supply management program to enhance delivery of leading-edge education by providing practical solutions to industry problems.

The WMU Center for Integrated Supply Management will offer an array of student learning experiences focusing on hands-on practical solutions to industry problems. In conjunction with the center, a new initiative—Bronco Force—will offer consulting services in supply chain to corporate clients. The program is designed to address difficulties supply chain managers face and, through faculty and student involvement, determine best methods to solve those problems in the workplace.

Ranked No. 12 in undergraduate supply chain education, WMU's ISM program was directed for many years by Robert Landeros, now chair of the Department of Management and a professor in supply chain management.

Memorial service set for Duncan

A campus memorial service set for Friday, Feb. 21, will honor the life and work of Lonnie E. Duncan, counselor education and counseling psychology, who died Dec. 31.

The event will be held at the Fetzer Center beginning at 3 p.m. and will include recognition by professional organizations as well as remembrances by faculty colleagues, administrators, students and alumni. Those planning to attend, are asked to RSVP at deanna.mercer@wmich.edu or (269) 387-5103 by Friday, Feb. 14.

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